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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT  
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. : 10/579,943  
Applicant : Yukinori IIZUKA et al  
Filed : May 22, 2006  
TC/A.U. : 1725  
Docket No. : 06334/HG  
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*Francine Smith*  
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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

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A copy of each of the publications identified in the enclosed Form PTO/SB/08A is enclosed herewith (except for United States patent publications). Citation No. 3 is also identified in the enclosed copy of the SUPPLEMENTARY EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT in the corresponding EP application. Cite Nos. 1 and 2 are patent family members of Cite No. 3.

It is requested that said publications be considered and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO/SB/08A with the Examiner's

initials in the left column be returned to the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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HG/lpv

Encs.: Form PTO/SB/08A and non-U.S. publication identified  
thereon; SUPPLEMENTARY EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Receipt date: 04/10/2007

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PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Application Number

10/579,943

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May 22, 2006

First Named Inventor

Yukinori IIZUKA et al

Group Art Unit

~~1726~~

Examiner Name

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Attorney Docket Number

06334/HG

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exam. Inits <sup>1</sup>	Cite No <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup>	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Relevant Portion
/KPK/	1	6,896,035	B2	IIZUKE et al	05-24-2005	
/KPK/	2	2003/0141036	A1	IISUKA et al	07-31-2003	

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exam Inits <sup>1</sup>	Cite No <sup>1</sup>	Off <sup>3</sup>	Document Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup>	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Relevant Portion	T <sup>6</sup>
/KPK/	3	EP	1 298 429	A1	NKK CORPORATION	04-02-2003		

Examiner  
Signature

/Kevin Kerns/

Date  
Considered

05/29/2009

<sup>1</sup> EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.<sup>2</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>3</sup> See kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>4</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>5</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>6</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>7</sup> Place a check here if English translation is attached.DATE MAILED: APRIL 10, 2007

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /KPK/